

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)



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| Applicant's or agent's file reference JNTTD-135PCT | FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA416) | |
| International application No. PCT/JP 03/13126 | International filing date (day/month/year) 14.10.2003 | Priority date (day/month/year) 17.10.2002 |
| International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC H04L12/46 | | |
| Applicant NTT DOCOMO, INC. | | |

- This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
- This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of sheets.

- This report contains indications relating to the following items:
 - I ☒ Basis of the opinion
 - II ☐ Priority
 - III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
 - IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
 - V ☒ Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
 - VI ☐ Certain documents cited
 - VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
 - VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

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|---|---|
| Date of submission of the demand 10.11.2003 | Date of completion of this report 14.01.2005 |
| Name and mailing address of the International preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016 | Authorized Officer Tyszka, K Telephone No. +31 70 340-2438  |

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/JP 03/13126

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, Pages

1-39 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-8 as originally filed

Drawings, Sheets

1/9-9/9 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
☐ the claims, Nos.:
☐ the drawings, sheets:

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International application No. **PCT/JP 03/13126**

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|---------|
| Novelty (N) | Yes: Claims | 2-5, 7 |
| | No: Claims | 1, 6, 8 |
| Inventive step (IS) | Yes: Claims | |
| | No: Claims | 1-8 |
| Industrial applicability (IA) | Yes: Claims | 1-8 |
| | No: Claims | |

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Re Item V

**Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
citations and explanations supporting such statement**

Document D1 (US5748736) was not cited in the international search report. A copy of the document is appended hereto.

Document D1, which is considered to be the closest prior art, already discloses a communication system comprising:
an information providing unit configured to provide information data; an information providing-side network configured to connect the information providing unit (Fig. 3; col. 7, lines 28-43) and be restricted access (col. 7, lines 45-56); an information transmitter configured to obtain the information data by transmitting request data (e.g. join request) for requesting the information data to the information providing unit (col. 13, lines 37-56; col. 7, lines 41-43), and transmit obtained information data to a terminal (col. 12, lines 35-38 and lines 50-54); an information transmitting-side network configured to connect the information transmitter and be restricted access (Fig. 3; col. 13, lines 29-36); and a transfer unit configured to connect the information transmitting-side network and the information providing-side network (Fig. 3), determine whether or not transmitting-side data received via the information transmitting-side network is data transmitted from the information transmitter, and whether or not providing-side data received via the information providing-side network is data transmitted from the information providing unit, and transfer the transmitting-side data and the providing-side data based on determination results (col. 14, lines 1-22; col. 10, lines 62-67; col. 6, lines 52-55).

Therefore, the subject-matter of independent claim 1 is not novel (Article 33(2) PCT).

The same reasoning applies, mutatis mutandis, to the subject-matter of the corresponding independent claim 8.

Document D1 already discloses subject-matter of claim 6 (col. 2, lines 2-5).

Therefore, the subject-matter of dependent claim 6 is not novel.

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International application No. PCT/JP 03/13126

Dependent claims 2-5 and 7 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT).

The additional features of claims 2, 5 and 7 are merely common design options in the networking field.

The additional features of claims 3 and 4 are merely one of several straightforward possibilities in the network address translation field from which the skilled person would select, in accordance with the circumstances, without the exercise of inventive skill, in order to solve problem posed.